

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SOURCE

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1. Except where there are bathing beaches, both banks of the Dnepr River at Kiev are overgrown with bushes (kustarniki) and tall grass, which is thickest near the water and more sparse inland. A few willow and linden trees grow on the west bank. Many roads and paths traverse these overgrown areas. Immediately north of Kiev, the growth of rushes (kamyshi) is not very thick; there is some growth either in the river itself or in permanently muddy spots along the bank. Dense growth of rushes begins about four or five kilometers north of the city.
2. Both sides of the Dnepr have miniature lakes, with the eastern side having about eight or ten of them. These lakes change their shape almost every year as a result of the spring and autumn floods. The Dnepr is at flood stage from March to May and in September and October.
3. There are no houses on the eastern bank of the Dnepr; cattle graze in the area beyond the shore. Downstream from Kiev, the east bank becomes less steep. Along the banks to the northeast of the city, families on summer vacations often set up tents in which they live for a week or two. There are usually a few dozen such tents to be seen throughout the summer in this area. There are no sandy beaches near the camping sites.
4. Many insects infest the area along the river banks in the summer, especially on hot, windless evenings just before it rains. On such occasions, whole clouds of insects appear and it is impossible to sleep out in the open. More commonly, however, a wind arises along the Dnepr in the evening, keeping the insects in check.

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